



**Mansfield Youth Services Advisory Board
Agenda**

Tuesday, October 11, 2016
12:00pm @ Mansfield Town Hall
Conf. Rm. B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Patricia Schneider, Human Services Director
Maggie Ferron, Early Childhood Services Coordinator
Larry Barlow, MMS Vice Principal
Charles Leavens, EO Smith School Counselor
Danielle Annibalini, Youth Services Social Worker
Luke Perry, Student Representative

- I. **Call to Order**
 - Meeting called to order at 12:03pm by Ethel Mantzaris.
- II. **Introductions**
- III. **Approval of minutes:** September 13, 2016
 - Minutes approved by the board.
- IV. **Reports**
 - Director's Report- Pat Schneider
 - An offer of employment for the Youth Services Supervisor position was offered and accepted by Dr. Katherine Bell. She will begin employment at Youth Services on Monday, October 17th. Dr. Bell will be joining Youth Services with a background in children/adolescent mental health and prevention.
 - A Facilities Study was completed regarding the status of town buildings to identify capital needs. These identified needs will be prioritized for improvements.

- Youth Services Report-Danielle Annibalini and Maggie Ferron
 - **Boy's Group:** The Middle School staff devised a list of potential 7th/8th grade Boy's Group members. Recruitment will begin tomorrow during the lunch waves. We're anticipating a group of 10-12 students. Youth Services' interns will be facilitating the group with the co-leadership of Connor Knecht, Parks and Rec employee. The focus for the group will be on promoting friendships and social skills through a variety of pro-social activities.
 - **Girl's Group:** The former Girl's Group has been split into two separate groups, 5th/6th and 7th/8th, to accommodate a growing interest. Permission forms and Teen Center registration forms went out last week to potential members. Youth Services' interns will each be planning and leading one of the Girl's Groups. An extended Girl's Night that will combine both groups has been planned for December. Youth Services interns have also been asked to coordinate an event with the Senior Center to encourage intergenerational activities.
 - **COPE:** All of the COPE programs have begun in the three elementary schools. Sarah Dufresne has graciously joined the Youth Services team temporarily to assist with the functioning of COPE. In total, we've welcomed 73 students into COPE, grades K-4, with various familial and environmental stressors. In addition, over 60 UConn students received COPE orientation and participated in team building activities.
 - **Big Friends:** Big Friends orientation was held on September 27th at Town Hall. Twenty-six (26) UConn students and one (1) ESCU student were welcomed as "Bigs" to the program. Twenty-nine (29) participants, grades 1-8, will begin Big Friends on October 4th. Sarah Dufresne will be facilitating the Parent Group for the month of October.
 - **X-Block:** Youth Services staff began informal X-Block lunch groups at Mansfield Middle School on Thursday, September 29th. We will continue to meet with students who were actively involved in COPE during elementary school and are now 5th graders. Danielle will also be "checking in" with students who are involved in Multi-Family Group and/or Big Friends.
 - **Open Houses:** Youth Services was represented at each the public schools open houses. Recruitment for Big Friends and COPE were the top priority as well as encouraging Mansfield families to complete the MAC survey.

V. Old Business

- MAC Survey update
 - Over 100 Mansfield families with children ages 0-8 completed the MAC survey. Results yielded that families are interested in

healthy lifestyles, safe walking/biking spaces, and parent networking opportunities. MAC will be working with town agencies to partner on existing, future events.

VI. New Business

- **CYSA Conference**
 - Danielle and Maggie attended the Annual CYSA Conference held in Cromwell on Thursday, October 6th. Danielle participated in a training focused on the inclusion of LGBT-QI students in programs. Maggie and Danielle attended a training led by a social worker for Love 146; an organization focused on working with victims of sex trafficking.
- **Meeting time conflict**
 - Danielle will be unable to attend future Advisory Board meetings due to a scheduling conflict with COPE. The majority of members are still able to attend our current date/time, so no changes were made.
- **Playground update**
 - Maggie reported that the surfacing has been fixed. MAC is working to purchase a musical instrument to replace the current sand box. Also, a donor board is finally in the works- a sample of butterflies was received that will be engraved with donors' names and posted.

VII. Other

- Sarah Dufresne and Maggie Ferron are working together on an Internet Safety class for parents and seniors. Location and presenter TBD.

VIII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:38pm. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 8th.